WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

QuikSCAT Mission Team

For the advancement of Earth science research and contributions toward improved environmental predictions

Since 1999, the QuikSCAT Mission Team has advanced Earth science research and contributed to improved environmental predictions using measurements of global radar backscatter and all-weather surface wind speed and direction over the ice-free oceans. The QuikSCAT Mission Team includes personnel from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Ball Aerospace and Technology Corporation, the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, and numerous principal investigators funded by NASA's Ocean Vector Winds Science Team.

The QuikSCAT Mission was conceived, developed, and launched less than 24 months after the unexpected, catastrophic loss of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Advanced Earth Observing Satellite (ADEOS)-1 spacecraft, which carried the NASA scatterometer. The team's performance has been outstanding and its results superlative. In the research arena, team members have published more than 300 publications in the peer-reviewed literature, with enormous scientific impact. The accumulating QuikSCAT data allow, for the first time, study of heretofore unknown small-scale, persistent ocean wind patterns. The QuikSCAT measurements have had enormous operational impact, enabling early detection of the location, direction, structure, and strength of ocean storms. QuikSCAT data are made available within two hours of acquisition to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other international weather forecasting centers to enhance marine watches and warnings and to improve the quality of global and regional weather forecasts. In addition to producing wind speed and direction products with unprecedented resolution, accuracy, and coverage, the QuikSCAT Team has developed sea-ice products and conducted ground-breaking research on land processes using the global backscatter measurements from QuikSCAT.

In summary, we recognize the Quikscat Mission Team, a superbly competent group of scientists, engineers, managers, and administrators, for ushering in a new era of Earth remote sensing, by yielding both outstanding research results and simultaneous development of operational applications.

Secretary
Department of the Interior

Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration